

Subject

12 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Intelligence Medal

1. We have submitted to the Bureau of the Budget a proposed Executive Order authorizing award of a medal to recognize outstanding service in the field of intelligence. The Bureau asked on what statutory basis the President was to issue the order. We answered that there is no statutory basis, but that we know of no statutory prohibition which would prevent the President from issuing the order under his inherent powers as Chief Executive; and that so far as any expenditure of funds would be concerned, we had adequate authority to make necessary payments. The Bureau then asked for further justification for an intelligence medal which was supplied to them in writing.

2. On 10 December the Bureau asked if the medal could not be issued under Section 14 of the Administrative Expenditures Act of 1946 (P.L. 600, 79th Cong.). This section authorizes heads of departments to pay cash awards to employees who make meritorious suggestions and to provide for honorary recognition of exceptional or meritorious service. I replied that we could issue a medal under this authority, but that it would not give the type of recognition for truly outstanding service in the intelligence field which the Director desired and which would be accomplished by an award authorized by the President. I remarked that in other fields the award of a medal would be accompanied by public description of the achievement for which it was awarded so that the individual got specific recognition of his services and that in intelligence such description could not be made to the public and the nature of the achievement might never be known. Consequently, adequate recognition would not be given by award of a medal under Section 14 of the Administrative Expenditures Act.

3. In summation, it appears that the Bureau of the Budget will not recommend approval of our proposed Executive Order on the grounds (a) that the President has no specific statutory authority to issue such an order, and (b) that there exist other authorities for the head of a department to recognize meritorious service.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Director of the Bureau of the Budget be requested to recommend the proposed Executive Order for an intelligence medal to the President for signature on the ground (a) that the President has inherent authority to issue such an order and (b) that existing authorities do not provide adequate recognition for outstanding contributions in the field of intelligence.

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General Counsel